

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 1. A seal assembly, comprising:
 a first body;
 a second body;
 a primary seal disposed between the first body and the
10 second body;
 a secondary seal disposed between the first body and the
 second body in spaced relation to the primary seal;
 a pressure port extending through one of the first body
 or the second body between the primary seal and the secondary
15 seal; and
 means for detecting a pressure increase within the
 pressure port, thereby indicating a failure of the primary
 seal.
- 20 2. The seal assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein the
 second body is positioned within the first body.
- 25 3. The seal assembly as defined in Claim 2, wherein the
 second body is a shaft which does one of reciprocates or
 rotates.
4. The seal assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein both the
 primary seal and the secondary seals are annular seals.

5. A seal assembly, comprising:

a first body;

a second body in the form of a shaft disposed within the first body, the shaft being capable of one of reciprocating or rotating;

a primary seal grouping including several annular seals disposed between the first body and the second body;

a secondary seal grouping including several annular seals disposed between the first body and the second body in spaced relation to the primary seal;

a pressure port extending through the first body between the primary seal grouping and the secondary seal grouping; and

a pressure sensor for detecting an increase in pressure within the pressure port, thereby indicating a failure of the primary seal grouping.